

H.R. 5143 – The H-Prize Act of 2006

The H-Prize, modeled after the successful Ansari X Prize – which spurred the first privately funded suborbital human spaceflight last year – would help overcome technical challenges related to hydrogen by offering prizes in three categories:

- **Technological Advancements** – Four prizes of up to \$1 million awarded biennially in the categories of hydrogen Production, Storage, Distribution and Utilization;
- **Prototypes** – One prize of up to \$4 million awarded biennially that forces working hydrogen vehicle prototypes to meet ambitious performance goals; and
- **Transformational Technologies** – One grand prize consisting of a \$10 million cash award, funded in whole or in part by federal contribution. Additional matching funds could be awarded for development of wells-to-wheels breakthrough technologies.

H.R. 5143 would authorize appropriations during fiscal years 2007 through 2016 totaling:

- \$20 million for the Technical Advancement prizes;
- \$20 million for the Prototypes prizes (awards in these two categories alternate each year);
- \$10 million for a single Transformational Technologies grand prize; and
- \$2 million annually for administrative and advertising costs.

The legislation would direct the Secretary of Energy to contract with a private foundation or other non-profit entity to establish criteria for the prizes and administer the prize contest.